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XLI.—*Letters, Extracts, and Notes.*

TO THE EDITOR OF 'THE IBIS.'

SIR,—In the last 'Ibis' (pp. 637-8) is a letter from Mr. R. Etheridge, Junr., in regard to Messrs. Cockerell and Thorpe; in this he suggests that my remarks regarding these collectors libelled Thorpe, who was personally known to Mr. Etheridge, though of Cockerell Mr. Etheridge does not offer any defence. I am quite willing, at Mr. Etheridge's wish, to absolve Mr. Thorpe from complication in the dishonest practices of which I accused Messrs. Cockerell and Thorpe, and it is then open for some friend of Mr. Cockerell to take up the cudgels on his behalf. The fact is, however, that the collection in question was purchased as made by "Messrs. Cockerell and Thorpe," and under these circumstances I can only allude to this collection under their joint names and am unable to fix the blame for the deception practised. It is quite pleasing to read Mr. Etheridge's defence, and personally I accept his vindication of Mr. Thorpe, but my remarks were only such as were demanded by the facts, which are not altered by Mr. Etheridge's protest. In the collection were many true Cape York

species; some of these were labelled Victoria, some West Australia, and some even New Zealand.

Notwithstanding Mr. Etheridge's explanation, I am afraid this scandalous collection will be remembered as the "Cockerell and Thorpe" collection, which seems a pity in view of Mr. Etheridge's assertions.

Yours,

8 Sept. 1915.

GREGORY M. MATHEWS.

Foulis Court,

Fair Oak, Hants.

*List of M.B.O.U. serving with H.M. Forces.* — The response to the paragraph in the July number of 'The Ibis,' asking Members of the Union now serving in a Naval or Military capacity to send their names to the Editor for publication, has not been very great. There are only 49 names in the present list, though there must be many more Members of the Union serving. It is hoped to publish an additional list in the January number, if Members will send their names to the Editor.

The following is a summary of the present list:—

Serving in the Navy .....	4
"    France .....	6
"    Egypt .....	3
"    India .....	5
"    British East Africa .....	2
"    Gallipoli .....	1
"    the British Islands .....	22
Killed in action .....	5
Prisoner in Germany .....	1
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	49
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Blackwood, G. G. 2nd Lieut., 10th (Service) Bat. Seaforth Highlanders.

Brabourne, Lord. Lieut. Grenadier Guards, in France. *R*  
(see 'Ibis,' 1915, p. 617).

Buxton, P. A. Private, 88th Field Ambulance R.A.M.C. in France.

Cheesman, R. E. Private, 5th (Weald of Kent—Territorial) Bat. The Buffs, in India.

- \*Clarke, G. van H., D.S.O. Major, City of London Rough Riders, in Egypt.
- Cochrane, H. L. Capt. R.N., at first Commdr. H.M.S. 'Yarmouth,' now Asst.-Director Naval Equipment at the Admiralty.
- Congreve, W. M. Capt. R.G.A. (Special Reserve), Milford Haven Coast Defences.
- Dyer, C. M. 2nd Lieut., 4th Bat. Rifle Brigade, in Flanders.  $\text{£}$  (see 'Ibis,' 1915, p. 618).
- \*Flower, S. S. Major, Commanding Camel Transport Corps, Canal Defences, Egypt.
- Gladstone, H. S. Capt., 2/5 K.O.S.B. Attached General Staff at War Office.
- \*Godman, E. S. Capt., Reserve of Officers, now Staff-Captain No. 8 District, Exeter.
- \*Grant, C. H. B. 2nd Lieut., 6th Bat. Rifle Brigade.
- Hamerton, A. E. Major, D.S.O., R.A.M.C., with 2nd Cavalry Division in France.
- \*Harington, H. H. Lt.-Col., Commanding 84th Punjabis, at Rawalpindi, India.
- Hasluck, P. P. H. Private, 2nd Bat. Hon. Artillery Company (Infantry), in England.
- Hills, J. W. Capt., 4th Bat. (Extra Reserve) Durham Light Infantry.
- \*Hony, G. B. Lieut., 4th Dragoon Guards, in France.
- \*Horsbrugh, B. R. Lt.-Col., Commanding 24th Divl. Train, Army Service Corps.
- \*Ingram, C. Capt., 2/1 Kent Cyclist Bat.
- Kennedy, J. N. Lieut., 130th Heavy Battery, 29th Brigade, R.A.
- \*Kinnear, N. B. Lieut. and Adjutant, Bombay Volunteer Rifles, in India.
- Legge, Hon. G. Capt. 7th (Service) Bat. S. Staffordshire Regt.  $\text{£}$  at Gallipoli (notice in January 'Ibis').
- \*Lodge, G. E. Private, City of London National Guard.

\* Also Member of the British Ornithologists' Club.

- Lynes, H. Capt. R.N., H.M.S. 'Penelope.'
- Meiklejohn, K. F. Lieut., 1st Bat. Cameron Highlanders, in France. *K* (see 'Ibis,' 1915, p. 368).
- Meiklejohn, R. F., D.S.O. Major, 1st Bat. R. Warwickshire Regt. (Wounded, and a prisoner in Germany.)
- Meinertzhagen, R. Capt., Royal Fusiliers, on the General Staff, Indian Expeditionary Force in British East Africa.
- Moulton, J. C. Lieut., 4th Bat. (Territorial) Wiltshire Regt., in India.
- Mouritz, L. B. Trooper, Australian Light Horse, at the Dardanelles (reported missing, Aug. 12).
- \*Munn, P. W. Lieut., 13th Bat. Hampshire Regt.
- \*Murray, E. M. Capt., Scottish Horse.
- Murray, H. W. Capt., Scottish Horse.
- \*Ogilvie-Grant, W. R. Private, 1st Bat. Central London Regt., in England.
- Pitman, C. R. S. Lieut., 27th Punjabi Regt., in Egypt.
- \*Price, A. E. Lieut., Welsh Guards.
- \*Proctor, F. W. Major, Recruiting Officer, Northern Command.
- Robinson, H. W. 2nd Lieut., late 2/4 Bat. King's Own Royal Lancaster Regt.
- \*Selous, F. C. Lieut. 25th Bat. Royal Fusiliers (Frontiersmen), in British East Africa.
- \*Sparrow, R. Lt.-Col. 7th Dragoon Guards, in France.
- Stanford, H. M. 2nd Lieut., Royal Artillery.
- Stanford, J. K. 2nd Lieut., 10th (Service) Battalion Suffolk Regt.
- Thomson, A. Landsborough. 2nd Lieut. 13th (Service Bat.) Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders (attached 4th Extra Res. Bat.).
- \*Treatt, C. C. 2nd Lieut. 1st Bat. Loyal N. Lancashire Regt., attached No. 1 Squadron R. Flying Corps, in France.

\*Vaughan, R. E. Commander R.N.; R. Naval Barracks, Chatham.

Venning, F. E. W. Capt., 31st Punjabis, in Baluchistan.

\*Wardlaw-Ramsay, R. G. Col. Commanding No. 3 Section Forth Defences.

\*Wollaston, A. F. R. Surgeon, H.M.S. 'Agincourt.'

Woosnam, R. B. Lieut., Worcester Regt., at the Dardanelles. *R* (see 'Ibis,' 1915, p. 781.)

\*Wynne, R. O. Lieut., 2nd Bat. Bedfordshire Regt., in France.

*Discovery in New Zealand.*—Mr. Louis T. Griffin, of the Auckland Museum, New Zealand, sends us the following extract from the 'Auckland Herald' of June 21 last:—

"A remarkable discovery of bird-life has been made by Mr. R. E. Clouston, mining engineer, of Rockville, in Collingwood, Nelson district. Mr. Clouston knows a great deal about bird-life in New Zealand, and, while exploring the Goulard Downs—a block of Crown land, some 26 miles from Rockville,—he discovered an entire colony of birds of rare species.

"First, there was a rookery of Great Kiwi (*Apteryx haasti*)—not a few stray families, but thousands of them—grubbing about in patches of tussock land, which alternated with clumps of virgin bush. There were not only Kiwis, but thousands of Kakapos, which are so rare that an advertisement appeared in an Auckland paper a few months ago offering £8 for a pair of them. Mr. Clouston arrived here with twenty-five of the big Kiwis.

"'I've been a bird man all my life,' said Mr. Clouston, 'and have travelled all over New Zealand, and have never seen anything like it. It is a really wonderful discovery from a scientific point of view, and it will mean the preservation of the various species. The birds I have with me are

to be liberated on Little Barrier Island, which, of course, is a sanctuary. Not only are there Kiwis and Kakapos on the block, but there are Blue Mountain Duck by the dozen, Saddlebacks (worth £10 each), New Zealand Robins, Wrens, Owls, Cook's Petrels (rain bird), Keas, Kakas, Tui, Makomakos, Warblers, Riflemen, Creepers (very rare), Maori Hens, Fantails, Tomtits, and Pigeons. It was a harvest of rarities. Kiwis are there because the feed is good. We found great worms from 4 to 5 feet in length. The longest one I measured was 4 feet 10 inches long. As soon as I found them, I communicated with Sir Francis Bell and asked him to have the block declared a sanctuary, and that has been done. It was gazetted some days ago."

Mr. Griffin writes further as follows in regard to this discovery:—"This district is so far removed from Auckland that I lament I am not able to go and see for myself such a number of our rare native birds. We have every reason to believe that the facts, as here stated, are quite true, and some of the Kiwis arrived in Auckland last week, *en route* for the Little Barrier Island, which is situated at the entrance to the Hauraki Gulf.

"Sir Francis Bell's brother is my next-door neighbour, and he also considers the statement not at all improbable, as the district is one that is very little known to either white man or natives.

"Some New Zealand birds are getting very rare, owing to the burning of the bush for one reason, and stoats, weasels, rats, and cats are responsible for the destruction of many. On the mainland of the Auckland district there are, however, still plenty of *Apteryx mantelli*, *Hemiphaga novæ-zealandiæ*, *Ninox novæ-zealandiæ*, *Nestor*, *Cyanorhamphus*, *Halcyon vagans* (one of our very commonest birds), *Urodynamis*, *Chalcococcyx*, *Acanthidostitta*, *Pseudogerygone*, *Rhipidura*, *Boedleria*, *Prothemadera*, *Zosterops*, *Glaucopis*, and *Anthornis*, not counting the Waders and Sea-birds, which, with one or two exceptions, are very plentiful. Last October, in the ranges at the back of Auckland, I saw many Kiwis in one day, and I know where there are a fine

lot of the beautiful *Anthornis melanura* within an hour of Auckland City, but they are all on an island. I do not believe there is one of this species on the mainland throughout the Auckland provincial district.”

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*Honour for a M.B.O.U.*—At the University of Leeds, on Degree Day, July 3rd, the Duke of Devonshire, as Chancellor, conferred the degree of Master of Science, *honoris causa*, upon Mr. Thos. H. Nelson, M.B.O.U., J.P. of Seafield, Redcar, in recognition of his labours in connection with Yorkshire natural history, and especially his work on the ‘Birds of Yorkshire.’

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